suicide, especially in Vidarbha have duly taken note of and farm policy has been structured on the basis of a holistic approach; and

(c) whether any monitoring mechanism has been established for periodical study of efficacy of new farm policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Many of the programmes/schemes which are already under implementation by various Central Ministries and Departments and State Governments are in line with the provisions contained in the National Policy for Farmers, 2007. The initiatives and schemes recently launched by the Government of India, like the National Food Security Mission and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana and the schemes included in the Eleventh Plan, augment the current schemes and programmes facilitating operationalization of the National Policy for Farmers. Schemes like promoting self employment among agricultural graduates, creation of market infrastructure and krishi vigyan kendras providing training and skill development in different aspects and activities relating to agriculture and allied sectors are likely to attract and retain youth in farming and processing of farm products, apart from improving the income of the farmers.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has appropriate mechanism to monitor implementation of various programmes and schemes being implemented by the Department. Besides, the Agricultural Coordination Committee under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister oversees and coordinates the integrated implementation of the National Policy for Farmers, 2007.

Dry farming techniques

779. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken to develop dry farming techniques in the country: and

(b) what new technologies are being developed to enhance dry farming in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA) located at Hyderabad with network project of All India Coordinated Research Project for Dryland Agriculture (AICRPDA) and All India Coordinated Research Project for Agrometeorology (AICRPAM) with 25 centres each located across the country are working on developing dry farming techniques to answer location specific problems. These centres are working on resource characterization, crops and cropping systems, rainwater management, soil health and nutrient management, alternate land use systems, energy management, and transfer of technology.

(b)> Integration of soil, crop and climate database for contingency crop planning has been attempted and decision support software has been developed.

> Popularization of agro-weather advisory services is being taken up at weekly interval.

> Small farm mechanization is being popularized through Custom Hiring Centres operated by local youth after their skill enhancement. This will provide employment opportunities for the youth and also reduce drudgery of women.